

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-20
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EGEN, TU
SUBJ: ECEVIT OUTLINES ECONOMIC POLICIES IN PRESS CONFERENCE

1. PRIME MINISTER BULENT ECEVIT SAID THAT TURKEY WILL REDUCE ITS DEPENDENCE ON FOREIGN BORROWING WITHIN A SHORT TIME BY INCREASING PRODUCTION, INVESTMENT AND EXPORTS. AT AN APRIL 7 PRESS CONFERENCE FOLLOWING HIS REGULAR WEEKLY MEETING WITH PRESIDENT KORUTURK, ECEVIT OUTLINED A NUMBER OF MEASURES HIS GOVERNMENT PLANS TO TAKE TO REACH THIS GOAL.

2. ECEVIT POINTED TO RECENTLY SIGNED TRADE AGREEMENTS WITH LIBYA AND THE USSR AS ELEMENTS IN THE GOVERNMENT'S MOVE TO BOLSTER EXPORTS. OTHER MEASURES, WHICH ECEVIT SAID HAD "REACHED THE FINAL STAGE BEFORE BEING IMPLEMENTED FULLY", INCLUDED UNSPECIFIED EXPORT INCENTIVES, REMOVAL OF BUREAUCRATIC HURDLES TO EXPORT AND EASIER IMPORT PROCEDURES FOR EXPORT-ORIENTED PRODUCERS. HE ALSO PROMISED THAT 1978'S EXPORT REGULATIONS (PRIMARILY DEALING WITH AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS) WOULD BE ISSUED SOON, LONG BEFORE THE EXPORT SEASON, TO ALLOW EXPORTERS TO DECIDE THEIR PROGRAMS IN ADVANCE.

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3. ECEVIT ANNOUNCED THAT A "HOME TRADE BILL", TO ESTABLISH A SMOOTHER AND MORE EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF COMMODITIES WITHIN THE COUNTRY, WOULD SOON GO TO PARLIAMENT. HE SAID THAT NEW TAX LEGISLATION DESIGNED TO PROVIDE SOCIAL JUSTICE, A FAIRER DISTRIBUTION OF WEALTH AND TO DETER LUXURY CONSUMPTION WOULD ALSO GO

TO PARLIAMENT THIS WEEK. HE ESTIMATED THAT THE NEW TAX LAWS WOULD YIELD AN ADDITIONAL 40 BILLION LIRAS IN REVENUE OF WHICH 30 BILLION WOULD BE CHANNELLED TO "WORKERS, CIVIL SERVANTS AND PEASANTS".

4. ECEVIT PROMISED THAT ENERGY CONSERVATION MEASURES WOULD SOON BE ANNOUNCED AND THAT INVESTMENTS IN ENERGY WOULD BE EXPEDITED IF THE PARLIAMENT PASSED A BILL AUTHORIZING THE GOVERNMENT TO CONTROL THE LIGNITE MINES.

5. COMMENT. THE PRESS CONFERENCE WAS QUINTESSENTIAL SOCIAL-DEMOCRATIC ETATISM. THE GOVERNMENT WILL INCREASE EXPORTS THROUGH BILATERAL TRADE AGREEMENTS, DIRECT AN EQUITABLE INTERNAL TRADING SYSTEM, AND REDISTRIBUTE WEALTH FROM THE RICH TO THE POOR THROUGH TAX REFORM, ALTHOUGH NO DETAILS OF THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICIES WERE GIVEN. THE PRESS CONFERENCE SEEMED DESIGNED PRIMARILY TO SHOW THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS ON TOP OF THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC PROBLEMS.
SPIERS

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